

Comparative Effectiveness Research: Understanding What It Is and Helping to Shape the Future Course

May 5, 2009

Resources & Background Material

Much of the work around transparency and public reporting relates to the relative performance of clinicians and settings of care. Equally if not more important is understanding the relative effectiveness of different interventions and treatments, drugs and devices. Without knowing what works best, it is impossible to get the information patients need in their hands to use with their clinician and it is impossible to move to higher value. Thus, conducting valid and independent comparative effectiveness research (CER) is one of the key foundations of any health reform effort. As part of current debate around reform there is consideration of funding and supporting an independent comparative effectiveness institute. Already, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has made a “down payment” of \$1.1 billion in funds for research that compares the clinical outcomes, effectiveness, and appropriateness of different treatments (e.g., drugs, medical devices, surgery, etc) for a health condition or illness. Additionally, the Senate Finance Committee will be considering a long-term or permanent framework for setting national CER priorities and its conduct in its deliberations on health care reform.

This document lists materials and resources that provide general background on the issues surrounding CER as well as highlighting the multiple perspectives held by a variety of stakeholders. If you would like to use information from presentations, please contact the presenter.

Note: Bolded documents were provided to in-person participants.

Presentations – May 5th Discussion Forum

- **Comparative Effectiveness Research in the Context of Health Care Reform** – Peter Lee, Co-Chair Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure Project and CEO of Pacific Business Group on Health
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/LeeCERIntro.ppt>
- **Comparative Effectiveness Research: Key Issues and Controversies** – Steven Pearson MD, MSc, FRCP, President, Institute of Clinical and Economic Review
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/PearsonCERIssues.ppt>
- **Using Comparative Effectiveness Research in the Public and Private Sector** – Sean Tunis MD, MSc, Director, Center for Medical Technology Policy
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/TunisCERUse.ppt>

Legislation

- **Comparative Effectiveness Sections in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, February 2009.**
 - http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/CER_ARRA.pdf
- Comparative Effectiveness Research Act of 2008.
 - http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/CER_ResearchAct2008.pdf
- **AcademyHealth. Summary of Comparative Effectiveness Research Legislation in the 110th Congress.**
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/SummaryCER110thCongress.pdf>

Position Statements

- Consumers Union. Statement on Comparative Effectiveness Research. April 2009.
 - http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/CU_CERApril2009.doc
- American College of Physicians. Information on Cost-Effectiveness: An Essential Product of a National Comparative Effectiveness Program. *Annals of Internal Medicine* (148), 2008.
 - http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/ACP_CostEffectAnnalsJan2008.pdf
- Partnership to Improve Patient Care. PIPC Principles.
 - <http://www.improvepatientcare.org/pipc-principles>
- AHIP. Board of Directors Statement on Setting a Higher Bar for Quality and Value through Comparative Effectiveness Research. November 2007.
 - <http://www.ahip.org/content/default.aspx?bc=31|44|21474>
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Improving Healthcare Value: Quality and Cost. September 2007.
 - <http://www.bcbs.com/issues/transparency/background/improving-health-care-value.html>
- Advanced Medical Technologies. Government-Funded Comparative Effectiveness Research. October 2007.
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/AdvaMedCEROct2007.pdf>

Background

- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. Chapter 5: Producing Comparative-Effectiveness Research. *In Report to the Congress: Reforming the Delivery System*, June 2008
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/MedpacChap5CERJun08.pdf>
- **Congressional Budget Office. Research on the Comparative Effectiveness of Medical Treatments. December 2007.**
 - <http://healthcaaredisclosure.org/docs/files/CBOreportCER12-19-07.pdf>

- Congressional Research Service. Comparative Clinical Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness Research: Background, History, and Overview. October 2007.
 - <http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/CRSbriefCEROct2007.pdf>
- New England Healthcare Institute. Balancing Act: Comparative Effectiveness Research and Innovation in U.S. Health Care. April 2009.
 - http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/NEHI_CERandInnovation.pdf
- AARP. Comparative Effectiveness : What's at Stake for Consumers? November 2008.
 - http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carequality/i17_comparative.html
- Alliance for Health Reform. Comparative Effectiveness: Better Value for the Money? August, 2008.
 - http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/AHR_CER_BetterValueforMoneyAug2008
- National Business Group on Health. Communication Toolkit: Using Information to Get High Quality Care.
 - <http://www.businessgrouphealth.org/usinginformation/downloads/using%20toolkit.pdf>
- ECRI Institute. Comparative Effectiveness Resource Center.
 - <https://www.ecri.org/ce>
- Tunis, S et al. Practical Clinical Trials: Increasing the Value of Clinical Research for Decision Making in Clinical and Health Policy. *JAMA*, September 2003.
 - http://healthcaredisclosure.org/docs/files/TunisPCT_JAMA2003.pdf

Programs

- Consumers Union. Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs.
 - <http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/index.htm>
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Effective Health Care Program.
 - <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>
- Oregon Health & Science University Center for Evidence-based Policy. Drug Effectiveness Review Project.
 - <http://www.ohsu.edu/drugeffectiveness/>
- Washington State Healthcare Authority. Comparative Effectiveness Research.
 - <http://www.hca.wa.gov/ce.html>
- BlueCross BlueShield Association. Technology Evaluation Center.
 - <http://www.bcbs.com/blueresources/tec/>